

Introduction

Congratulations on your marriage! This is a very exciting period for you and your fiancé, but it is important that you take the time to follow all guidelines to make sure your marriage goes smoothly. This brochure will be helpful in making sure that happens.

All persons, including American citizens, who desire to marry in Japan, must do so according to Japanese law. Marriage in Japan consists of a civil registration of marriage by the couple at a Japanese government office. The registration constitutes a legal marriage and is recognized as such throughout the United States. Japanese marriage does not require a religious ceremony. Such a service does not constitute a legal marriage under Japanese law and, is separate from the civil requirements.

In addition, there are Air Force Instructions you should be aware of if you intend to marry a foreign national. These instructions are not intended to prevent marriage. Rather, they are to make both aliens and US citizens aware of the rights and restrictions imposed by the immigration laws of the US.

With your marriage comes many privileges as well, including dependent pay, more life insurance, etc. Your dependent is also eligible for many military services. If you have questions, your legal assistance attorney will be happy to help you.

OTHER RESOURCES

- AFI 36-3101 Marriage Procedures
- AFI 36-2609 Marriage in Overseas Commands
- SGLI handout
- Wills handout
- US Department of State on Marriage:
http://travel.state.gov/law/family_issues/marriage/marriage_589.html
- US Embassy in Tokyo:
<http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-7114.html>

Legal Assistance Hours:

By Appointment Only

Notary Hours:

Monday-Thursday 0900-1500



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MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

This Brochure Includes:

- Starting the Marriage Process
- Register With the Japanese City Office
- Finalizing Your Marriage
- Dependent Services
- Preparing for the Future as a Family
- Other Resources



The information in this brochure is of a general nature and is not intended as a substitute for legal counsel.

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Starting the Marriage Process

In order to start the marriage process, you will need to go to the Military Personnel Flight (MPF), Customer Service, to pick up a marriage package with instructions that tell you what documents and forms you must submit. You must submit the following to your squadron commander:

Proof of Citizenship: A birth certificate for both parties (one bearing a raised seal impression or multi-colored seal with proper certification of the issuing authority) or a valid U.S. passport or naturalization certificate in the case of a naturalized citizen or a certificate of citizenship if you were born overseas.

Parental Consent: If you have not attained the age of 20, you are required to obtain a written consent to your proposed marriage from either your parents or legal guardian. Since the legal age to marry varies from state to state, seek advice from the base legal office.

Proof of Termination of Previous Marriage: Documents verifying dissolution of all previous marriages, such as divorce, annulment, etc., must bear the raised seal impression of the court and proper certification by the issuing court clerk.

Pre-Marital Medical Examination: Go to the Base Hospital for a medical examination, which mainly consists of blood tests including a HIV test. This test costs around \$300 out of pocket. At Yokosuka hospital pre-marital exams are free, however, the waiting list is long. You will receive the results within 4-6 weeks.

Upon receipt of all the above items you must make a marriage application appointment at Personal affairs, 225-7330. At this time you will be given two forms:

“Marriage Between US Citizens & Permanent US Resident Aliens” letter which your squadron commander must endorse and

“Affidavit of Competency to Marry” form certified at the legal office.

Register With Local Japanese City Office

The registration of your marriage must be completed at the local Japanese City Office. You must provide them the following documents:

- “Affidavit of Competency to Marry” form in English and notarized
- Japanese Translation of the “Affidavit of Competency To Marry” form
- Kon-in Todoke (Marriage Registration Form)
- English Birth Certificate and its Japanese translation *or* your Naturalization Certificate and its Japanese translation

The local Japanese City office will then issue a “Certificate of Acceptance” (Juri Shomeisho) which costs about 400 Yen, or you may purchase a “Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage” (Konin-Todoke Juri Shomeisho) which costs about 1400 Yen. Both Documents are in Japanese and are legal marriage documents. Ensure that your Japanese marriage certificate is translated into English for future reference. It is recommended that you have an “official translation” (a list of translators is available at the MPF customer service counter) made of your Japanese marriage certificate.

Finalizing Your Marriage

Since the U.S. isn’t notified of marriage overseas, it is recommended that Americans register their marriages at the county seat in their home of record.

A copy of your marriage certificate, and English translation and your “Marriage between U.S. Citizens & Permanent U.S. Resident Aliens” letter must be provided to the Personal Affairs Office so your application to marry may be completed.

Dependent Privileges

Once your marriage is finalized, provide the Customer Service Section of MPF with an original marriage certificate (English translation included). At this time, your DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data), will be revised and an ID Card will be issued to your new spouse.

Your new spouse is also entitled to all the benefits of a military dependent, including: chapel services, family services, legal assistance, BX and Commissary privileges, etc.

Preparing for the Future as a Family

Once you are married, it is important to take the time to update your SGLI, Death Gratuity, and Will.

In addition, you will want to start the immigration process right away to ensure your spouse will get citizenship status in a timely manner.

Congratulations on your Marriage!